

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 AF-06

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, PT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

THE UN SECRETARIAT IN DOCUMENT A/10209:S/11813 OF
25 AUGUST 1975 HAS CIRCULATED A LETTER OF AUGUST 23
TO UNSYG WALDHEIM FROM PORTUGAL'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS RUIVO ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

THE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, TO
ENCLOSE HERewith A LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975, ADDRESSED
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY BY MR. MARIO RUIVO, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL.

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I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD DIRECT THAT

THIS LETTER BE CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNDER ITEMS 23 AND 89 OF ITS PROVISIONAL
AGENDA, AND OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) ANTONIO DA COSTA LOBO DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. SUBSEQUENT TO THE LETTER I ADDRESSED TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
ON 22 AUGUST 1975 (A/10208), THE SITUATION IN TIMOR
HAS DETERIORATED TO AN EVEN GRAVER EXTENT.

2. THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF AUS-
TRALIA AND INDONESIA, MEANWHILE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING
THE MINIMUM AND INDISPENSABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION NECE-
SSARY IN ORDER TO COMMENCE EVACUATION OF 1,400 PEOPLE
CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA OF THE PORT OF DILI.

3. THIS EVACUATION BEGAN TODAY, 23 AUGUST, AT 0500 HOURS
GMT, RESULTING IN THE EMBARKATION OF A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE.
THE EMBARKATION OPERATION PROCEEDED NORMALLY WITH THE USE OF
BARGES THAT TRANSPORTED THE EVACUEES FROM LAND TO THE NOR-
WEGIAN SHIP "LLOYD BEKKE", WHICH WAS LOCATED AT A DISTANCE
FROM THE PORT OF DILI FOR REASONS OF SECURITY.

4. HOWEVER, AS OF 0740 HOURS GMT, THESE BOARDING OPERATIONS
WERE HAMPERED BECAUSE ONE OF THE POLITICAL FACTIONS INVOLVED
IN THE ARMED CONFLICT UNDER WAY - FRETILIN - IMPOSED DIFFI-
CULTIES AND OFFERED RESISTANCE TO THE OPERATION, INCLUDING
BOMBARDMENT WITH MORTARS OF THE PORT AREA. AT THE SAME TIME,

CONDITIONS IN THE CAPITAL BECAME CHAOTIC, WITH GENERALIZED
PANIC SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE POPULATION AS A RESULT OF
THE MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF INHABITANTS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND
CHILDREN.

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5. ASIDE FROM THE RISK FACED BY PEOPLE STILL WAITING TO BE
EVACUATED FROM DILI, WE ARE AWARE THAT APPROXIMATELY 50
NATIONALS AND FOREIGNERS ARE BEING HELD IN THE INTERIOR AS
HOSTAGES.

6. IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNOR OF TIMOR
SENT A MESSAGE, CONSTITUTING AN SOS, ASKING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
INTERVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES, DESIGNATED FROM ONE OR

MORE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, SO AS TO PUT AN END TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SITUATION.

7. GIVEN THE PRECEDING, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT URGES YOUR EXCELLENCY TO EXERT ALL YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SO AS TO AVOID A FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE AND TO ENABLE THE RESUMPTION OF HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION OPERATIONS.

8. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SHALL CONTINUE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION. IF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION BETWEEN THE CONFLICTING PARTIES IS NOT FOUND, INTERNATIONAL ACTION MAY BECOME NECESSARY, FOR WHICH THE GOOD OFFICES OF YOUR EXCELLENCY ARE INDISPENSABLE.

(SIGNED) MARIO RUIVO
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL UNQUOTE
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